

# **DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

## **DMNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 24, 2025, via Zoom**

### **I. Call to Order**

President Dan Brophy called the Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Steve Arnold  
Zachary Brunnert  
Kristen Hansen  
Julia Laden  
Latonya Reeves  
Craig Simonson

Board member Matt Monroe was absent.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Other guests included:

Katie Cashman, Ward 7 Council Member  
Patrick Sadler, Ward 3 Policy Aide

### **II. Consideration of Agenda**

*Reeves moved and Laden seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Brophy called for discussion. The motion passed.*

### **III. Ward 3 Update**

Ward 3 Policy Aide, Patrick Sadler, reported on the following:

- Working with staff to update the 2025 Scooter License Agreement. They are working on making it easier to report problems / issues via 311. They are also planning to reduce speeds in the Mill District and around the Stone Arch Bridge. There are likely going to be two operators this season.
- Council Member Rainville is working with the DMNA's Safety and Security Committee to host "Ready Camp", which is a free training to learn how to prepare for an emergency like a national disaster or fire. It would be open to residents and businesses. Committee Chair Howard Cohen said that the committee plans to discuss this at their March 13 meeting.

Info on the Ready Camp is available at:

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/ready-camp/>

#### IV. Ward 7 Update

Council Member Katie Cashman reported on the following:

- Metro Transit’s proposal to remove transit from the Nicollet Mall. Board members inquired about how the city will enhance / improve the Nicollet Mall once there are no longer buses on it. They will need to have more regular programming to keep the street active. There are concerns about safety for pedestrians if there is no traffic or eyes on the street. There was also a question about safety and security at the Central Public Library. People tend to congregate outside and inside this facility, which makes people feel unsafe.
- Update to the Zoning code to make it easier for developers to do office conversion projects. She highlighted the Flour Exchange building and the Lumber Exchange building.

#### V. Consent Agenda

*Reeves moved and Arnold seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the board meeting minutes for January 27, 2025; FY 2025 Budget; Financial Report for January 2025; the 2024 Minnesota Charitable Organization Annual Report; the 2024 IRS Form 990; the Executive Director staff report for January (Invoice #1xx); and the 2024 CNNF-EEF Annual Report. The motion passed.*

#### VI. Committee Reports

**A. Land Use Committee.** Chair Laurie Rice reported on the following:

- **Letter of support for Aeon for the lot combination associated with the Exodus Hotel Project.** Aeon is partnering with Catholic Charities and St. Olaf Catholic Church on an affordable housing project at 819 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S. The units will be for people transitioning out of homelessness. There will be onsite supportive services for residents

*Motion by Reeves and seconded by Arnold to approve the letter of support for the Exodus Hotel project. Brophy called for discussion. The motion passed.*

Information about this project is available at <https://aeon.org/about/properties-coming-soon/state-housing-tax-credit-program/>

- **Letter of support for a sign variance application for ZURU located at 651 Nicollet Avenue.** Gaviidae Commons LLC is working with SDDI Signs for new signage for ZURU. The application is to increase the maximum height of a wall sign.

*Motion by Brophy and seconded by Hansen to approve the letter of support for the ZURU sign variance. Brophy called for discussion. The motion passed.*

The staff report for this sign variance application is available at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/download/Agenda/7110/5128/PLAN18996-VarianceStaffReportFINAL.pdf>

- **Letter to Council Member Rainville regarding 800 Washington Avenue.** This is a city-owned property that has remained undeveloped for years despite multiple RFPs. The most recent development agreement expired in January. The developer was unable to obtain financing. The committee is requesting a meeting with Council Member Rainville to share concerns and ideas about moving forward.

*Motion by Brophy and seconded by Reeves to approve the letter to Council Member Rainville regarding 800 Washington Avenue. Brophy called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**Next meeting is Tuesday, March 4**

**B. Safety and Security Committee.** Chair Howard Cohen reported on the following:

- The Safety Whistle project has been a big success. They have distributed over 800 whistles to downtown residents and businesses. There are also three places that people can pick them up at: The Minneapolis DID community space on the Nicollet Mall, the MPRB office at Water Works Pavilion; and Open Book.
- DMNA – DID – MPD Safety Update on Tuesday, April 29, at 5 p.m. at the Pohlad Hall at the Central Public Library.
- Working with Council Member Rainville to connect with Somali Youth Link.
- Planning for a Ready Camp in partnership with Council Member Rainville.

**Next meeting is Thursday, March 13**

## **VII. New / Old / Other Business**

**A. Update on Civic Engagement.** President Brophy introduced three people who are interested in being involved in civic engagement activities.

**B. Update on Business Outreach.** Board Members Matt Monroe, Zachary Brunnert, and Craig Simonson met to start talking about business outreach and possibly establishing a Business Committee. More to come. Waiting to see what happens with the East Town Business Partnership.

**C. Discussion regarding forming a Property Managers Committee.** President Brophy presented his idea to create a property managers group. It would be like the HOA Advisory Group but would include rental and ownership building managers. Hantge stated the DMNA created a Property Managers Group back in 2017. It was

hard to get the property managers to participate in meetings. In morphed into the HOA Advisory Group, because it was easier to get HOA Board Presidents to attend meetings. The outcome was at least a good list of the downtown residential buildings, rental and ownership, along with building managers. These people were added to the e-newsletter distribution list. The list needs to be updated.

**D. Discussion regarding North Loop Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting.**

President Brophy stated that he attended the NLNA Annual Meeting at the end of January. He indicated that the location was packed. He liked that they engaged the business community in their event. They also had a raffle to raise funds for the organization. They also created a very nice summary video after the event and shared it out. Some ideas to consider as we look ahead to the DMNA Annual Meeting in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2025.

**VIII. Updates / Reminders regarding 2025 Events**

- MPRB Big Chill event on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at The Commons
- [City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Day on Saturday, May 3, 2025](#) – DMNA will host an event in collaboration with the MPRB at Gateway Park
- DMNA Take a Kid Fishing event on Saturday, June 7, 2025
- DMNA Day at the Mill City Farmers Market on Saturday, June 21, 2025
- DMNA National Night Out celebration on Tuesday, August 5, 2025
  - Fundraising – Board members need to identify at least five businesses they will contact for a donation to help support the 2025 National Night Out event.

Hantge will draft a “call to action” letter to include in swag bags for distribution at the outreach events.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Reeves moved, and Hansen seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Brophy called for discussion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary